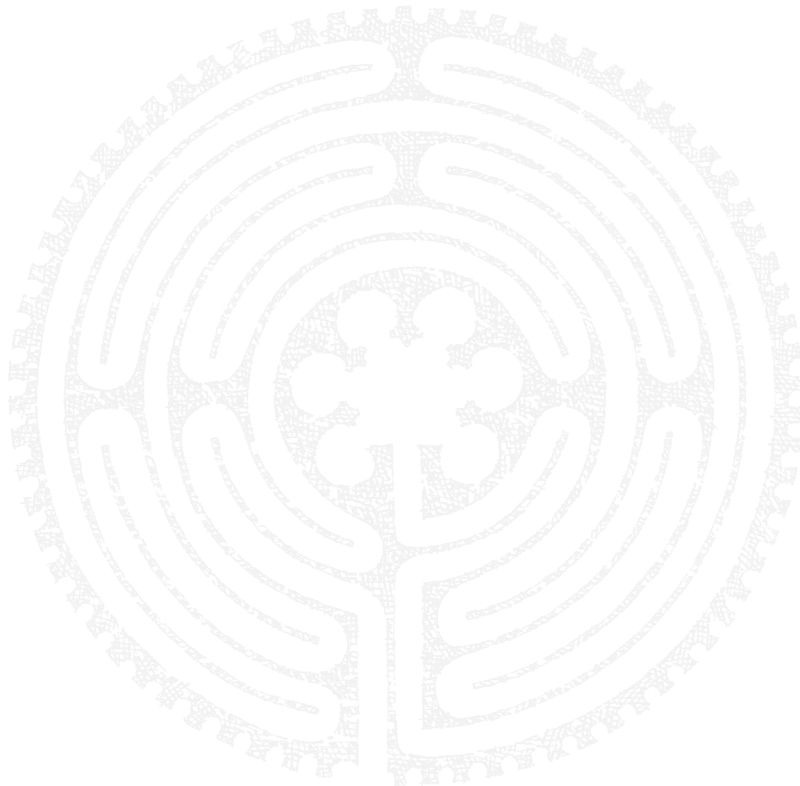


# **LAUREL HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**February 21, 2021**

## **First Sunday in Lent**



### **Welcome to Sunday Worship**

As we gather, we celebrate the unique gifts God has given to all,  
believing that our many backgrounds and identities are essential  
to the shared offering we bring to God through  
worship, study, friendship, and serving.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

**Bold print** invites those who are participating in worship to read or sing.

## Gather to Worship

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Largo*

A. Vivaldi

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We are praying, we are listening,  
**we are seeking to know God's will and walk in God's way.**  
The wilderness calls our name;  
**empty spaces await us, holding both temptation and blessing.**  
God sends us messengers, summoning us in varied tongues into this sacred season,  
**leading us to the springtime of the soul.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.*

### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, I want to know you, to love you, to follow you all of my days.  
**Holy One, order my steps.**  
Faithful God, we want to journey along a way of devotion and self-surrender.  
**Holy One, guide your people.**  
Merciful God, we yearn to travel a path that leads from death into life.  
**Holy One, show us the way.**

## Proclamation of the Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

Laura Healy

### PSALTER

Psalms 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust, let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Let none that wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are  
clothed with treachery.  
Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.  
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!  
Good and upright is the Lord; therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,

and leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them their way.  
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep the Lord's covenant and testimonies.

## SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-13

## SERMON

Show Us the Way: Messengers in the Wilderness  
Rev. Paul Escamilla

## Response to the Word

## RESPONSE

*Come, My Way*

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath,  
such a truth as ends all strife,  
such a life as killeth death.*

## WORD OF WITNESS

Karen Hogan

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Romans 8:35, 8:37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
**No!**

**In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.  
We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Minuet*

G. F. Handel

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Laura Healy

Lord, in your mercy . . .  
...hear our prayer.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

# Sending Forth

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

*Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread;  
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him; “Turn these barren rocks to bread!”  
“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!”*

*When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us, lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

### LITURGIST

Karen Hogan



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Tony Arredondo, Norma Balderas,  
Betty Benson, Whit Birdsong (*Kitty Grantham*),  
Jeanne Coder, Jim Crews, Judy Davis, Gena (*Thad Dorsey*),  
Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*), Annalynn Jackson,  
Lucien Manchester, May O’Neal,  
Doug Semmes, Bob Walden.

#### ***Those Who Mourn:***

Mary Verette on the loss of her aunt, Bettie Goodkin;

**God’s Presence:** for our country, parents, teachers and students  
both face to face and remote, those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their  
families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers  
working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; home-  
bound members, the incarcerated,  
and women and men in our military.

# *Show us the way...*

**Walk the Labyrinth Sundays during Lent  
February 21 - March 28  
8-10AM & 4-6PM by reservation**

**The Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Gym (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78212**

Make your reservation today | (210) 733-7156 

## **Thursday, February 25 – SUPER ADULT DAY**

Another day in the Woodlawn Parking Lot. Bring a chair to put in front of your car (or we will provide one) as we practice social distancing and wave royally to Super Friends. We will continue our celebration of the Valentine Season. There will be special Valentine cards on which to write notes of appreciation to Front Line Workers in the fight against Covid 19.



We will deliver them to Methodist Metropolitan Hospital.



**Come at 11 a.m.** to receive cards for writing and lunch delivered to your car – “Super Adult Curb Service.”

Enjoy your lunch which today is: Green Salad with Love Apples, Chicken with Artichoke Hearts, Love Knot Rolls, Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Cost \$6.00

***Call to make your reservation at 210-872-8031***

Bring a jar of Peanut Butter to add to food bags being collected by the Faith Convening Group for distribution to area schools for students who might otherwise go without during Spring Break.

## Mission Box for Sunday, February 21st

### SA Wesley - Mission of the Month

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio is the Methodist Campus Ministry for San Antonio College, Trinity University, & UTSA campuses.

Your donations will purchase needed masks, gloves and any other materials needed to protect students whenever we engage in a work project like Habitat for Humanity. We provide scholarships to students to participate in UM Army (participants pay to work in home repair and maintenance needs for low income, elderly and disabled homeowners; fee covers meals and supplies for staying a week at a location working with other participants from the Rio Texas Conference.

For more information, contact Rev. Valerie Vogt – Campus Minister, Brenda Meneses- Ministry Administrator, or Alex Ruiz – Program Coordinator at (210-733-1441) or visit our website <http://saumcm.org>.

### Urgent Needs for cold weather care for those without shelter

This is an urgent need issued from the Interfaith San Antonio Alliance and the Mission Committee of LHUMC:

**Warm clothing and blankets are needed** and South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) is organizing and collecting new cold weather gear at 319 W. Travis St.

**Drop off donations at the San Fernando Homeless Resource Hub from Monday to Friday between 1 and 4 p.m.**

CONTACT: Billy Mahone III      [BillyMahone@sarahomeless.org](mailto:BillyMahone@sarahomeless.org)      (210) 876-0720

**Food Drive:** Neighborhood Faith Convening is collecting food items to distribute to our area schools for families with food insecurity before Spring Break. **We have been assigned jars of peanut butter and canned chili as our collection items.** You may drop off your donations in the basket just inside the Woodlawn door or you can leave your donation on the bench outside the door and we will bring it inside for you! **We will collect through March 1<sup>st</sup>**



### SA Food Bank

Volunteer Info here <https://safoodbank.org/ways-to-help/give-time/>



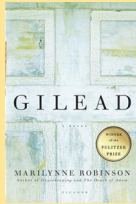
***Online Gifts:***

Please visit our website,  
[www.laurelheights.org/donate](http://www.laurelheights.org/donate)

***Text to Give:***

Please text "LHUMC" to 73256  
For illustrated step-by-step online and text  
giving instructions, click [here](#).

***Checks:*** Please mail to  
LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper  
227 W. Woodlawn  
San Antonio, Texas 78212



**ZOOM BOOK STUDY ON *GILEAD*  
FEBRUARY 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.**

Plans are underway to launch a Zoom book study at Laurel Heights on four Sunday nights, beginning on February 14. The Rev. Dr. Mark Doty will lead the study of *Gilead*, the Pulitzer Prize winning novel written by Marilynne Robinson and published in 2004. *Gilead* is the first of four novels in a series which details the history of a pastor's family. Copies of *Gilead* are available through local bookstores or by ordering from Amazon. Please call the Church Office to register: 210-733-7156.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Healy [lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org).

***PRAY WITH  
LAUREL HEIGHTS***

Share prayer requests by  
emailing  
[prayers@mylhumc.org](mailto:prayers@mylhumc.org)

or calling the  
church office  
(210) 733-7156.



Photo Credit: Anthony Castillo, LHUMC Facilities Manager